

Nineveh purport to show real progress in the Christian majority towns, on the ground we see little evidence of it. Work projects are in most cases cosmetic in nature, and much of that cynically so . . . In effect, U.S. taxpayers are financing the spoils of genocide.”

As an alternative option for U.S. assistance, he details the Nineveh Sustainable Return Program, an initiative of the ecumenical Nineveh Reconstruction Committee to repair homes damaged or destroyed by ISIS. The Program has already rebuilt several thousand homes and enabled thousands of Christian families to return, mostly funded by the Knights of Columbus and Aid to the Church in Need, with some additional funding from the Government of Hungary. Last month, the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee USA submitted a proposal to USAID to ensure the project can be completed and many more families can return.

I strongly support this time-sensitive proposal and call on USAID Administrator Mark Green to ensure a decision is made about it soon. Because of the resistance among career staff at USAID to directing assistance to religious and ethnic minority communities, even though they were targeted for genocide, it is imperative officials appointed by the President are part of the review process and that the final decision be made by Presidential appointees. I included this proposal as part of the hearing record.

As Mr. Rasche warns in his written testimony, “Today, as I speak to you, we are caught fully exposed and at-risk, finding ourselves at a critical historical inflection point, foreign aid decisions over which will determine whether Christianity, and religious pluralism—vital to the U.S. national interest and regional security—will survive in Iraq at all.”

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JUDITH
TUCKER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader, an outstanding citizen, and a dear friend of longstanding, Ms. Judith Tucker, on the occasion of her retirement.

A native of West Point, Georgia, Judith attended Spelman College before transferring to Columbus College, where she received her bachelor's degree in General Business.

Judith previously served as a marketing officer for Columbus Bank and Trust Company and the Vice President of Product Development at Synovus Financial Corporation. After working for Synovus Financial Corporation, Judith joined the board of Midtown Incorporated where Mayor Teresa Tomlinson served as the Executive Director. After developing a solid business relationship, Tomlinson hired Judith as MidTown's Director of Community Affairs, and together they increased the organization's membership from 24 to 100 members. When Tomlinson ran and won in the 2010 mayoral election for the City of Columbus, she appointed Judith to be her Executive Assistant, and for more than 7 years, Judith has done a

tremendous job in upholding the highest standards of professionalism, honesty, and affordability.

Ms. Tucker's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in government, Ms. Tucker served on a several boards, including the boards of NeighborWorks for Columbus and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. She also belonged to a number of prestigious organizations, such as Girl Scouts of Historical Georgia, the Gracious Ladies of Georgia, and the Kiwanis Club of Columbus.

Judith Tucker's faith has always instilled within her a desire to positively shape the community in which she lives. As the Chair Pro-Tem of the Board of Trustees at St. James A.M.E., she regularly incorporates her faith into her commitment to public service.

She has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would be possible without the grace of God and the inspiration, love and support of her son, Kenneth Tucker, and her grandson, Tristan Tucker.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: “You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give.” The greater Columbus area is a better place because of Judith Tucker and her tireless commitment to making our community stronger. As a woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 700,000 citizens of the 2nd Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Judith Tucker upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF TAIWAN

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the upcoming National Day of Taiwan, which falls on October 10th. I extend my best wishes to the people of Taiwan as they prepare for this important day, and also offer my best wishes for the day itself.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud of the actions we have taken through the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) and the Six Assurances in helping to make it possible for the people of Taiwan to build the strong, prosperous, and democratic society they enjoy today. Our bilateral relationship is as strong as ever, and I am confident it will continue to be in the years to come.

Trade between the United States and Taiwan exceeded \$65 billion in 2016, a sign of close economic cooperation and friendship. Recently, Foxconn, a Taiwan-based company, made an announcement that they were expanding in to the United States through new facilities. I look forward to working towards closer trade ties and a renewed commitment for economic prosperity.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in a message of continuing friendship to the people

of Taiwan, and in wishing them a Happy Double Ten Day.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
DR. STEPHEN A. RALLS

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Dr. Stephen A. Ralls.

Dr. Ralls has served as the Executive Director of the American College of Dentists for the past 20 years, one of the longest serving leaders in the organization's 100-year history.

The American College of Dentists was founded on August 20, 1920, in response to serious problems facing the profession. The group works to elevate the standards of dentistry, encourage graduate study and grant fellowship to those who have done meritorious work. The American College of Dentists is nonprofit and apolitical, and has long been regarded as the “conscience of dentistry.”

As a dentist myself, I deeply appreciate the contributions of this organization, and, particularly Dr. Ralls, to the field of dentistry. Their work has elevated the field and calls on all dentists to excel.

I want to extend my gratitude to Dr. Ralls for his commitment to the American College of Dentists and the greater community of dentistry. I congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF
LENOX

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 250th anniversary. Over the course of its storied history, Lenox has been home to people and events which have greatly contributed to the vibrancy of our country's traditions and culture. Located in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains, the town is a wonderful representation of Western Massachusetts and the beauty it holds.

Lenox was named after Charles Lennox, the Third Duke of Richmond, who was known and respected for being an advocate of the interests of American colonists in the British House of Lords. The town lived up to the legacy of its namesake as an active participant in the Revolutionary War. In less than a decade after its first town meeting in 1767, Lenox was represented before the Royal Governor of Massachusetts by Colonel John Paterson, who would go on to play a central role in paving the way for the birth of the United States of America.

Since then, Lenox has contributed generously to the notable history and culture of not only Massachusetts, but also that of our nation. The region's rustic beauty helped Lenox develop into a lively artists' colony, attracting creative minds the likes of which included writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, photographer James

Van Der Zee, and novelist Edith Wharton. The town has facilitated the preservation of The Mount, Ms. Wharton's country estate, which is a National Historic Landmark and welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually. Lenox is also renowned for its cultivation and encouragement of the musical arts through the annual Tanglewood Music Festival, as well as the Tanglewood Estate which has served as the summer home for the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1937. The town also boasts the new international campus of Shakespeare and Company, a popular theater group and world-famous center for creative excellence in the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the Town of Lenox, Massachusetts has been a place of historical importance and cultural renaissance since its founding in 1767. Additionally, its admirable promotion of the arts is certainly worthy of recognition. Lenox is a place of outstanding character and I am proud to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. As the town celebrates their 250th anniversary with a town-wide parade, I wish them all the best and continued prosperity.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, MS.
FANNIE LOU HAMER**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the civil rights icon and voting rights activist, Ms. Fannie Lou Hamer. Ms. Hamer is fondly remembered and admired for her activism during the Civil Rights Movement while speaking out against the injustices that African Americans faced in Mississippi and across the United States.

Ms. Fannie Lou Hamer was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi, to a family of impoverished share croppers. At just six years old, her family expected her to work in the fields, which she continued to do for most of her early life until she was fired for trying to register to vote.

At 37 years old, Ms. Hamer launched her career in political activism, which soon became her chief mission in life. Ms. Hamer attended a meeting hosted by the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) where she first registered to vote and became a field worker on the voter registration committee. In 1964, she attended the Democratic Convention in Atlanta and eventually helped found the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Ms. Hamer became one of the faces of the civil rights struggle in Mississippi.

While the Voting Rights Act of 1965 codified what Ms. Hamer fought so hard for in our country, there still remains much to do. Before the 2016 election, 14 states adopted new voter laws under the guise of combating voter fraud, which essentially created new barriers to voting for tens of thousands of low-income citizens and citizens of color. Later, the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* left many across the nation without their fundamental right to vote by reversing a key formula used in the Voting Rights Act to hold states accountable. On May 11, 2017, President

Trump issued an executive order that would create an "election integrity" commission, which has been stated to combat voter fraud, but in reality will lead to a repeat of the egregious mistakes of our past.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hamer's persistence and diligence in her fight for voting rights was integral to the Civil Rights Movement and the eventual passage of legislation that protected the right to vote for all citizens. We must continue to remember her struggle, as the struggle continues even to this day. By honoring Ms. Hamer's legacy, we can learn from the mistakes of our past and recognize those who had fought for a better future.

**DISASTER TAX RELIEF AND AIR-
PORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION
ACT OF 2017**

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I fully support a long-term extension of FAA authority, and I am very concerned that the expiration on September 30th will have serious consequences for our air safety and economy. Congress owes the American people a bill that will provide stability for our air traffic controllers and keep our skies safe. So I am extremely disappointed that the Republican leadership has decided to attach a number of controversial and partisan policy provisions that are not germane to air travel and for that reason, I cannot support the bill in its original form.

For example, this legislation contains provisions that relate to hurricane disaster relief and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Unfortunately, this bill does not extend reauthorization, increase borrowing authority, or address the overall stability of the NFIP. Instead, Republicans have decided to use this legislation as a vehicle to develop the private flood insurance market. Furthermore, the provisions providing tax relief to hurricane victims are woefully inadequate in assisting our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Additionally, while this bill extends authority for a number of health care programs, Republicans have decided to disregard essential bipartisan priorities like the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Community Health Centers. These programs require immediate reauthorization, and failure to do so will leave states like Minnesota without money to provide healthcare for babies, children, and expecting mothers. Community health centers across the country will lose the support they need to provide basic healthcare. Some will even be forced to close. The bill also fails to address the urgent need to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program. While a short-term extension is included for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, the funding is inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, these are all important issues, and deserve immediate Congressional action, but the only way to solve them is with bipartisan solutions. Half measures and political games will only waste more time, and Democrats stand ready to work with our Republican

colleagues to address each of these issues in a more thoughtful way.

The Republican leadership has had nine months to work out a bipartisan, long-term solution for FAA Reauthorization. Instead of working with Democrats to pass a customary multi-year reauthorization, the Republican leadership waited until the last minute to push forward only a six month patch. Republicans then wasted more time by including a number of unrelated and partisan provisions that had nothing to do with FAA Reauthorization. Their decision to include a provision that would have effectively dismantled the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) ensured that the previous version of this bill would never pass the Senate.

We owe the American public and our air traffic controllers better. Playing political games with something as important as airline safety is unacceptable. Failure to reauthorize FAA authority would leave our air traffic controllers and the travelling public at great risk. Not only would a lapse in reauthorization mean furloughs for tens of thousands of air traffic controllers, but it would also force vital airport improvement projects to come to a halt. The effects of this shutdown would have serious implications on America's economy and air safety.

Now that the Senate has stripped out the most controversial provisions of this legislation, I am able to support it. However, Congress must put aside partisan differences, work together, and produce a long-term extension that our airline industry so desperately needs.

**FANNIE LOU HAMER—
NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED**

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of an American hero, Fannie Lou Hamer. A leader in the Civil Rights Movement, Fannie Lou Hamer faced down racism, violence, prison, and more in her fight for the right to vote. This week marks what would be Hamer's 100th birthday, giving us an opportunity to reflect on Fannie Lou's legacy, her persistence in the face of adversity, and what her story means for our country today.

For those of you who are not familiar with Hamer's story, Fannie Lou was born in 1917 in Mississippi, the youngest of 20 children. Her family worked as sharecroppers in Mississippi, and at the age of six, Fannie Lou joined them picking cotton.

It was in 1962, after nearly forty years of working in the fields that Fannie Lou Hamer tried to register to vote. For African Americans in Mississippi during the Jim Crow era, registering to vote was an act of extraordinary courage. This was a time when black men and women, mothers and daughters, and fathers and sons were beaten and lynched by white mobs with no legal repercussions.

Fannie Lou knew these dangers, but nevertheless, she persisted. In August of 1962, she traveled to Indianola, Mississippi to register to vote. When she returned home after registering, she was fired by the owner of the plantation she worked on, who had warned her against registering.